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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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45
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01

/146 W
---------- 114662
P 191100Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7936

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10927

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON NIACT IMMEDIATE INFO USDAO
SAIGON 18 AUG 74 REPEATED FOR YOU INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DA NANG 0365

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PINS, VS
SUBJECT: COMMUNIST ATTACK ON MINH LONG DISTRICT SEAT, QUANG NGAI

1. ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS MINH LONG SUB-SECTOR AND SEVERAL SURROUNDING OUTPOSTS CAME UNDER COMMUNIST ATTACKS BY FIRE AT 0630 ON AUGUST 17. THESE WERE FOLLOWED BY GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST GVN POSITIONS AT BS546535 AND BS530495. AFTER FURTHER ATTACKS BY FIRE, CONTACT WAS LOST WITH MINH LONG SUB-SECTOR AT 0920. CONTACT WAS MAINTAINED WITH 3 PF PLATOONS 8 KILOMETERS TO THE NORTH EAST OF THE SUB-SECTOR, BUT BY 1735 COMMUNICATION WITH TWO OF THEM HAD ALSO BEEN LOST. LACK OF CONTACT WITH GROUND FORCES IN THE AREA DIMINISHED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 18 AIRSTRIKES FLOWN BY THE 1ST AIR DIVISION. AN RF BATTALION HAS BEEN ORDERED TO MOVE TO RECEIVE STRAGGLERS FROM MINH LONG. NUMBER OF CASUALTIES IS UNKNOWN.

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2. ACCORDING TO THE I CORPS G-2, ELEMENTS OF THE 9TH BN OF THE

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52ND NVA BRIGADE AND THE 406TH NVA SAPPER BN OF MR-5 PARTICIPATED IN THE ATTACKS. THE G-2 ASSERTS THAT THE COMMUNISTS CLAIM TO HAVE HELD MINH LONG AT THE TIME OF THE CEASE FIRE AND PRESUMES THAT THIS WILL BE THEIR JUSTIFICATION FOR THESE ATTACKS.

3. WHILE THE LOSS OF MINH LONG DOES NOT SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE MILITARY SITUATION IN I CORPS, THE COMMUNISTS MAY GAIN AT LEAST SOME PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGES AS A RESULT OF HAVING TAKEN A SECOND DISTRICT SEAT IN MR-1 SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THEIR CURRENT SUMMER-FALL CAMPAIGN.
POPPLE
UNQUOTE
LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 19 AUG 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
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Disposition Remarks:
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Review Event:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: MILI, PINS, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
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